

250 BC

Consuls:

C. Atilius Regulus (II)

L. Manlius Vulso longus (II)

Romans win battle outside  
Panormus and commence  
siege of Lilybaeum.

250 BC

First urban sites in mainland  
South-East Asia with walls  
or moats, e.g. Co Loa, Vietnam

250 BC

Appearance of earliest Buddhist monuments in India: stupas, stone columns and wheels.

Buddhism reaches Ceylon; first monuments of ANURADHAPURA.

250 B.C.

All of peninsular Italy controlled  
by Rome

Brahmin alphabetic script of India

Mauryan empire in northern and  
central India reaches its height; capital  
at Pataliputra

C 250 B.C.

Ptolemy II (reigned 285 → 246 B.C.)  
brought into being one of  
antiquity's greatest intellectual  
centers at Alexandria; the greatest  
public library (at the time).

He carried on the work  
of his father Ptolemy I (295 B.C.)  
who collected many of the  
scrolls, but died before the  
work could be finished.

The Septuagint was produced  
in Alexandria: Old Testament from  
~~the~~ Hebrew into Greek.

250 BC

## Dead Sea Scrolls

In 1947 a boy discovered Old Testament manuscripts that are 1,000 yrs older than any other surviving copies of Scripture. Near northwestern bank of Dead Sea, the shepherd boy threw a stone into a cleft that was above him. He struck a clay jar containing manuscripts. The scrolls belonged to a Jewish sect traditionally identified as ESSENES who lived in QUMRAN, a desert.

community 14 mi east of Jerusalem, they had hidden the scrolls from Roman soldiers, who destroyed their settlement in A. D. 68.

Archaeologists surveyed the area and uncovered pieces of at least 800 manuscripts, some dating back to more than 200 yrs before the birth of Jesus. Some scrolls (total 1544) survived intact. Some 50,000 fragments, scholars are still piecing together. Written between 350 BC and AD 68, the scrolls preserve not only the Bible itself, but additions to the Bible, among them 3 additional Psalms. The shepherd & his co-workers sold the 1-7 Dead Sea Scrolls to a dealer of antiquities who in turn sold them to ~~for~~ H.

$250 \pm 50$  BC

The Hindus had worked out the number system that we use (Arabs picked it up in  $850 \pm 50$ ) & passed it on. Roman Nos were used till end of middle ages

Hindu also introduced negative numbers.

250 BC ± 50

Compass

China

The magnetic north-south pointing properties of the lodestone, or magnetite, may have been used for direction-finding in the 3rd century B.C., or perhaps if old tales have any validity, even 300 yrs earlier. The earliest written reference to a south pointer, which may have been made with lodestone, comes from the 3rd century: "When

the people of the state of Zheng go out in search of jade, they carry a south-point pointer with them so as not to lose their way in the mountains;"

250 ± 50 BC

## Egyptian Chronologies

The Aegyptiaca of Manetho (an Egyptian high priest of the 3rd century BC) has been found. He had access to complete king lists and detailed records, but his work survives only in the excerpts of later classical historians. He set out the system of using dynasties & larger divisions.

25° ± 50° E

Chen

Buildings with brick and  
arch structures emerged.

C 3500e

235-246 BC

Ptolemy I and Ptolemy II Philadelphus developed their capital city of Alexandria into a nursery of Hellenistic culture and learning, whose fame extended far beyond the borders of their own kingdom, and made it a radiant center of attraction for emigrants from Judah among others. In this crucible they steeped themselves in the beauty of the Greek language, the only means of testing the delights of the prodigious advances of the human mind and

human spirit. It was the international language of learning and commerce, the language of tens of thousands of Israelites who knew no other home.

The rising generation no longer knew Hebrew as their mother tongue.

3rd Cen BC 250BC  $\pm 50$

cal.

The Macedonians used the system  
of inserting extra months every  
other year

250 BC ± 50

The Romans discovered how to make a type of hydraulic (hardens underwater) cement in 8th or 3rd cen. BC. by mixing volcanic ash with their lime (heat limestone to make lime)

One of Rome's greatest achievements soon after they used this cement to make concrete.

C 250 BC

The first civilizations in the Western civilizations arose in meso- (Western America) America, south of the Rio Grande in Mexico, in the centuries just before the Christian Era.

c 250 BC

3rd century BC

Greek scholar ERATOSTHENES  
lived in 3rd cen. BC. Was learning  
at famous Alexandria library

He knew of a well up the Nile  
at Syene (Greek name for Aswan)  
where at midday on summer  
solstice, sunlight beamed straight  
down to the bottom. If the Earth is a  
sphere, then sunlight at the same moment  
must strike different parts of Earth at

different angles, casting measurable  
shadows. Since Alexandria was assumed  
to be due north of Syene, then there were  
2 places separated by a known distance (piled  
off by Cenotaphs) lying on the same  
north-south meridian of longitude. He  
determined the shadow cast by a column at  
noon on the solstice. Its angle measured  
about  $1/50$ th of a circle. He multiplied distance  
by 50 to get Earth's circumference  $\approx 25,200$  m.  
The longitudinal circumference is known today to be  
24,860 mi.

C 250 BC - 226 AD

Ancient Parthian dynasty  
ARSACIDS (ARSACIDAE)  
ruled Persia

c 250 BC

~~Jan 11/11~~

## SEPTUAGINT

The Pentateuch was translated  
into Greek in Egypt

c 250 BC

3rd Cen BC onward

Near East opted for the Babylonian  
system of 7 days/week

250BC

Duncan:Cal

whatever its origin the symbols that eventually became our own first appear in carvings on stone columns across north India as early as 250BC or before, when Hindu mathematics was making the transition to a positional system  
(b)

the first 9 numbers looked like

$\begin{matrix} - & = & \equiv & \neq & \sqsubset & \sqsupset & \sqcup & \sqcap \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \end{matrix}$

250 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

The first Roman schools  
of which records have been left  
was found in 250 BC

250 BC → 150 BC

1912 Dates' J-BK

### Roman Law

To allies or conquered people  
special laws grew up out of  
decrees by rulers and senate  
between 250 & 150 BC.

C 250AC

1912 Dates J-BK

"Commentary on PANINI'S  
Sanskrit Grammar" by  
KARTYAYANA

C250bc

310-240BC

1912 Dates J-BK

Six hymns, 64 fragments and  
some translations of the works  
of CALLIMACHUS (about 310-240BC)  
An Alexandrine poet and grammarian.

1912 Dates J-BK

250BC

Dramatic pictures of common  
life by HERONDAS

250BC

thus it came about that the Jews in Egypt decided to translate the Hebrew scriptures. About 250BC, the TORAH was translated into Greek a fact of immeasurable import for Western civilization. (apocryphal 10th of ARISTEAS of Alexandria)

There is a legend connected with this above as follows: Philadelphus (285-246BC) sent envoys to the High Priest at Jerusalem asking for copies of the TORAH and for men to be sent who could translate them into Greek, the High Priest sent a copy of the TORAH and 72 learned and

wise scribes. They set to work and at sea on the  
island of Pharos off Alexandria at the foot of the  
305 ft lighthouse of Philadelphia (Ptolemy)  
Each worked in a cell by himself. When these scholars  
had completed their task and the translations were  
compared with one another, all 72 were said to  
have corresponded exactly word for word. This  
Greek translation of the Bible was called the "Septuagint"

The hitherto carefully ~~do~~ guarded door  
was thrown wide open. Now everyone  
could read the Bible.

c 250 BC

3rd century BC

The earliest known pipe organ called a hydraulis was invented by CTESIBIUS of Alexandria, a Greek engineer. He used the power of falling water to push a constant jet of air through a set of different-sized tubes.

It was said that the HYDRAULIS created an ethereal palette of sounds

250BC

Older Cards

## DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In 1947 a boy discovered Old Testament manuscripts that are 1000 yrs older than any other surviving copies of the SCRIPTURE.

The scrolls belonged to the Essenes who lived in QUMRA, a desert community 14 mi east of Jerusalem. They had hidden the scrolls from the Roman soldiers who destroyed their

settlement in 68 AD.

Prices of 800 manuscripts were found, including: parts of every Old Testament book except Book of Esther & Nehemiah. The scroll of ISAIAH survived intact.

Written between 250 BC and AD 68 the scrolls preserve not only the Bible but additions to the Bible: 3<sup>3</sup> additional psalms; Bible commentary; History of Essenes.

1st 7 scrolls (the best) sold for  
£12,000 (the buyer gave him) £1,6424<sup>50</sup>

250-228 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

ZEILAS was king of BITHYNIA

250 BC

1912 Dates. J-BK

Parthians conquered all the lands between the Euphrates and the Indus, and thus kept the Greeks and Indians apart.

If some had not expanded in this way, the middle class might well have branched out into manufacturing and trade as the Athenians did. In fact, there is evidence that in the latter part of the 4th century BC industry was growing up. Increased population and exhaustion of the soil had caused a congestion of poor people in the city who would ordinarily have provided a supply of cheap labor for industrial development. But this would have involved a break with the past - The Romans had always

#### C250 - C300 BC ECONOMIC CHANGES. HURST SMALL FARMER

The long years of war were very hard on the small farmer class. The loss of life must have been considerable since this class composed the greater part of the Roman Army. But their material prosperity was also affected. When they had to be absent for a long time every summer, their crops suffered, and many of them fell into debt and lost their farms. Their property was also affected by changes in the character of the soil along the coastal strip. The forests on the

mountain sides were cut to supply the  
need for timber, and this allowed the heavy  
rain to wash the soil off the mountain sides.  
When this happened there was nothing to hold  
water back in the spring and so there were  
destructive floods. Much formerly good land was  
turned into swamps, excellent for breeding  
mosquitoes but not so good for farmers  
unless expensive drainage works were under-  
taken. Furthermore much of the land along  
the coast was worn out by continuous cropping.  
Wealthy Romans saw a way to profit by this  
condition - they bought hill country lands to  
serve as summer pasture and let the soil for  
the same purpose at other seasons. This was  
profitable to the men who had the capital to do  
this, but for the poor it was out of the question.  
Some of the Latin peasants, assured of few  
crops by irrigation, stayed on their farms,  
but the great majority of them flocked to  
Rome, whence they were periodically  
driven off to former colonies as Roman  
victories made conquered lands available.

in the deep mud and precious time was often lost in attempting military movements. When the mud became thick and apparent, these practical Romans spared no labor or expense to meet it, and stopped for no obstacle. In low places, they built causeways high above the low-lying mud. Extensive fills and cuts were made. The road was driven through to its destination in as direct a line as possible. A stout foundation of broken stone and concrete was laid, and large flat stones were put on top.

(2)

farmers and the ruling class had long been estate owners. However, victory in war nearly always provided new land for settlement and so the labor supply was drawn off to agriculture. It might have been better for the Romans if they had not won so often — then Rome might have become an industrial city, as had several Italian cities whose territorial expansion was definitely blocked by that of Rome. The Romans did not lack inventive genius — they could have become

industrialized had it been necessary.

His practical limitation of the Romans to agriculture made their progress in civilization slow. Most of them had no contact with the outside world and remained simple sturdy farmers with the virtues and vices of such people. At a time when Greek literary and cultural civilization was reaching the peak of its development, the Romans knew little or nothing of such things. Few architectural and artistic remains testify to Roman progress along these lines.

But the land expansion of Rome did lead them with progress in some kinds of material civilization. In the days the sea was the great means of communication and they never paid much attention to road building, whereas the Romans, a land people, saw the need of roads and set about providing them. For example, the un-drened coastal plains of Latium and Campania became quagmires at certain seasons. Men, horses, and wagons were mud

military colonies planted at strategic points all over the peninsula, in important seaports, and also in Latium and other districts where the people had been taken into full citizenship.

6/6

2/

③

To make a hard, smooth surface almost as good as a modern concrete pavement and far more durable. The Via Appia started in 312 BC. ran southeastward into Campania, then across the Apennines into Apulia. A great north road, the Via Flaminia, was later pushed in that direction and subsequently others were planned and built. Thus Italy was welded into a single geographical unit by this marvelous

system of roads. Later, as Roman conquests went beyond Italy, her engineers followed, and the whole Mediterranean basin was provided with these exceptional highways. Not only the Roman armies, Roman officials, and Roman merchants, but all her allies used them. If news of any sort of trouble reached Rome, the steady tramp of Roman soldiers could be heard pounding along the highway, or perhaps a courier on horseback would clatter along at top speed carrying orders to the nearest post to start the soldiers to the scene. These means of rapid communication, plus Roman military efficiency, tended strongly to discourage trouble makers and did much to spread Roman speech, habits, and customs all over Italy.

This nationalization was greatly aided by the enlightened policy of Rome toward the conquered people. They were divided into three political groups: (1) Roman citizens, some with full rights and others with all but voting rights; (2) Latin allies; and (3) federated allies. Full Roman citizens were located not only at Rome but in Roman

the consuls usually alternated month by month in supreme command at home, and day by day in the army. Only the dictator, consuls, and praetors could hold military command and wield judicial power. All magistrates had power to arrest and imprison and to enforce obedience to their orders.

The TRIBUNES of the plebs, although not magistrates at times wielded considerable influence because of their veto power and their right to convene and address the Senate and to preside over and direct the tribal assembly. But usually

3rd century BC

MAGISTRATES

were chosen in pairs (except the dictator)  
for one year only (except the censors)

Dictator was rarely chosen but was supreme when in office

The CONSULS commanded the armies, presided over the CENTURIATE assembly and the SENATE, and were the chief executive officers.

The CENSORS were chosen every 5 yrs and held office for a year and a half. They made up

citizen lists in grades for taxation and military service, let contracts for such public works as road building, and made up lists of senators, for which it was customary for them to enslave only men who had held the higher magistracies. At times when more commanding officers were needed for the army, from three to nine military tribunes with consular power had been elected in place of the two Consuls; but after 366 BC only consuls were chosen and some of their judicial power was given to the Praetors.

The CURULE AEDILES and QUAESTORS were subordinate magistrates. The Senate could prolong the term of office for Roman magistrates in emergencies, these officers then being called pro-magistrates. The magistrates ranked upward in the following order: QUAESTORS, AEDILES, CENSORS, PRAETORS, and CONSULS. Except for censorship usually held by ex-consuls, men held these offices in the above order. One magistrate could veto any act of his colleague or of a lower magistrate.

To avoid confusion of authority, however,

had made the treaties and certainly kept their details in mind. Thus the Senate continued to wield predominant influence, becoming a sort of cabinet, and in addition, a party legislative body.

they were young and comparatively inexperienced  
men and played a minor part in government.

One hundred members of the Senate were nearly all  
magistrates. From early times they had great authority -  
the magistrates usually acted only after getting  
their advice. The popular assemblies were too unwieldy  
and incompetent to make important decisions wisely &  
quickly, and so it became customary to consult the  
Senate alone. As Roman power grew, for example, the  
number of treaties with other states became so great, their  
terms so intricate and the details of government work  
so confused, that inexperienced tribunes and even  
magistrates hesitated to take important steps without  
consulting the experts in the Senate, some of whom

composed only of plebeians, but now included all citizens. It became the most important lawmaking body, though it could not decide such major questions of state policy as the making of war or peace. It was led by tribunes of the people whom it elected. Apparently at first this made Rome almost as democratic as Periclean Athens.

## 3RD CENTURY B.C.

## POPULAR ASSEMBLIES

The popular assemblies were two in number. (1) The comitia centuriata or assembly of the centuries choose the magistrates and sometimes made laws. All full citizens were members, but they voted by centuries and so the rich controlled this body; hence conservative candidates, usually members of prominent families were ordinarily elected. (2) The comitia tributa or tribal assembly was originally

laws are antiquated and we have hundreds which are scarcely ever enforced, but it is very hard to induce state legislatures to repeal them. Through his discretionary power the praetor extended or amended the law. Often he claimed to be following the old law when actually he was providing ways by which they could be circumvented. For example, the old Roman customary law gave the father absolute power over the property and lives of all members of

3rd Cent. B.C

DEVELOPMENT OF ROMAN LAW

One of the great contributions of the Romans to world civilization was their wonderful legal system. From an early date they began to show much good sense in lawmaking, and progress became more notable when special judicial officers were set up. The praetors, who were usually senators experienced in the public service, soon began to see that some laws still technically valid were actually quite obsolete. When the Twelve Tables left the penalty for many offenses to the anger of the gods, they saw that, as people were becoming less devout,

some more definite human penalty must be imposed. Thus they separated religion and law, believing that it was the baseness of the state, not of religion, to maintain law and order.

The proctors were usually members of the landowning nobility with a keen sense of property rights which made them look with disfavour on schemes for canceling debts and all other revolutionary changes. Yet they had an inherent sense of fair play which made them feel that law ought not to be too formal - that, where different people had different legal customs, what was wholly just and right ought to prevail. Thus they evolved the idea of equity to determine justice when legal technicalities did not solve the problem.

The proctors adopted the custom of announcing at the beginning of the year the interpretation of laws which would be followed during their term of office. It was hard to get old laws modified by the huge tribal assembly where people were likely to be dominated by rigid conservatism or swayed by passion. Many of our own

(2)

his family, including the wives of his sons. This was called PATRIA POTESTAS. Many Romans of later times thought this too severe; they did not wish their daughters to be put under the despotic rule of the head of another family, and they wanted them to have the right to own property of their own instead of doing away with this feature of the old law. The praetor pretended to recognize the PATRIA POTESTAS but he permitted its annulment by several forms of contracts and agreements.

law was made progressive by these annual edicts of the praetor, for it was actually created by the judges rather than by the tribal assembly. Of course if they so desired, the people could override the praetor, but it was seldom done.

The success of the Romans in winning and holding the loyalty of the Italian people was so conspicuous that clever Greek observers began to take notice and try to explain it. Several reasons have already been presented.

About 250 BC

Histrian Timaeus of Sicily  
or Egestosthenes started the  
system of dating by successive  
Olympiads from the first  
in 776 BC

250 BC? → 247 BC

1912 Dates. J-BK

Parthians revolted from Persia  
under ARSACES I who became  
king

250 BC  $\Rightarrow$  70 AD

A large group of scrolls found  
in Qumran & Judean desert  
consists of biblical manuscripts  
dating from 250 BC till 70 AD.

c 250 BC  
mid 3rd Cen

Palmyra emerged as a major power in its own right

c 250BC

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The Babylonian 7 day week  
was widely used in the Near  
East

c 250AD

The city of Babylon fell into ruins. The Euphrates had changed course, and disastrous floods turned much of the region into a swamp, burying the city under a thick layer of silt. Some of the stones were taken to build other cities and the city "vanished."

250BC  $\Rightarrow$  650AD

TEOTIHUACAN civilization  
flourished in Central America

C 250 BC  $\Rightarrow$  160 AD - building

## GREAT WALL OF CHINA

From the seacoast of China to the mountains of the Far West, for a distance of 1,500 miles, the great Wall stands as it did 2000 yrs ago. Its height is more than 20 ft and its top is wide enough for a roadway. For centuries it was patrolled by soldiers, who also farmed land near their posts. The

Great wall guarded China from the Huns,  
who once lived in Mongolia, to the north,  
the Huns have disappeared but the Great  
Wall remains.

250 BC

DURANT

Captured 255 BC

After keeping Regulus a prisoner for five years, his captors allowed him to accompany a Carthaginian embassy sent to Rome to seek peace, but on his promise to return to captivity if the Senate refused the proposed terms. When Regulus heard these he advised the Senate to reject them and despite the entreaties of his family & his friends, went back with the embassy

to Carthage. There he was tortured to death  
by being prevented from sleeping. His sons at  
Rome took two Carthaginian captives  
bound them in a chair studded with spikes  
and kept them awake till they died.  
Neither tale seems credible until we  
recall the barbarities of our time.

250BC

ARSACES founds Kingdom of  
Parthia.

the LAOCOÖN.

MANETHO, Egyptian historian  
LYCOPHRON of CHALCIS, poet

250 B C

The shapes of modern "Arabic" numerals  
can be traced to India from ASOKA times  
onward

3rd century BC

There is evidence that the 19-yr cycle was adopted by the Parthian Dynasty in Persia and that from Persia it reached China during the Han Dynasty, where its ~~controversies~~<sup>controversies</sup> as the basis of the Chinese Calendar, the now yr. In Palestine, the 19-yr cycle was adopted by the Hebrews for their religious calendar and with slight modification

it still continues in use among them.

From the Hebrews it passed to the Christians who have continued from that day to this to use it to determine the date of Easter.

250 BC

Romans reject Carthaginian  
offer of peace.

250BC

Pharos, Alexandria

250-225BC

The Colossus at Rhodes

250BC

Perthia revolted from Macedon

250 BC

Durand 17  
Northern Italy - a bushel of wheat  
cost half a denarius (3¢)

Bed & board at an inn cost half an as  
(3¢) a day.

In Delos in 1st Century BC, a house of  
medium type rented for 4 denarii (2.40)  
a month.

In Rome AD 50 a cup & a saucer cost  
half an as (3¢)

250BC

The 1st Roman Prison, TULLIAVUM  
erected

250 BC

Romans reject Carthaginian offer of peace

250 BC

Unsuccessful siege of  
LILYBAEUM by the Romans

250 BC

invasion of Britain by  
La Tene, Iron-Age people

c 250BC

Roman law reduced to writing.  
"victory for the plebeians"

249 BC

Consuls

Publius Claudius Pulcher

L. Junius Pulus

Dictator:

A. Atilius Caetinus

Master of Horse Gaius Iulius Mutilus

Punic navy wins great victory at off Drepana; Roman fleet suffers heavily in storm near Camarina; dictator sent to command in Sicily